

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/195,604

Applicant(s)

TOMIDOKORO ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment dated 8/3/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 30-37 (renumbered as claims 1-6,8-15 and 7, respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Joseph R. Pokrzywa*  
JOSEPH R. POKRZYWA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2622

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 8/3/05, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-7, and 30-37** are pending.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. **Claims 1-7 and 30-37** are allowed (renumbered as **claims 1-6, 8-15, and 7, respectively**).

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claims 1, 7, 30, and 36 (renumbered claims 1, 8, 9, and 15, respectively)**, in the examiner's opinion, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the system, as claimed, include the features of having each of the image forming devices configured to detect a signal line separation from at least one of a central service station and a communication control unit over a predetermined period, with the detection being periodically performed by each of the image forming devices, and displaying a signal line separation message when the image forming device detects a signal line separation.

The closest prior art, being the previously cited references of Ogura (European Patent Publication Number EP 0 768 582) and Ote *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,815,652), along with the newly cited reference of Shimizu *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,689,416), each fail to specifically teach of these features. Particularly, both Ogura and Ote fail to expressly disclose if each of the image forming devices, being one of a printer, copier, and a facsimile machine, detect

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a signal line separation from the central service station or communication control unit, and if each of the image forming devices are configured to detect the transmission fault over a predetermined period through a process periodically performed by each of the image forming devices. Shimizu discloses a computer system monitoring system which fails to expressly disclose if each of the image forming devices, being one of a printer, copier, and a facsimile machine, display a signal line separation message when the image forming device detects a signal line separation from the central service station or communication control unit. Therefore, because of these features, which were added in the amendment dated 8/3/05, the claims are rendered allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7410. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph R. Pokrzywa  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2622



jrp